

II. Remarks

A. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-30, 33-46, 48-49, 52-53, and 55 are canceled without prejudice for filing in a continuing application. Claim 31 is amended. Claims 31, 32, 47, 50-51, and 54 are pending.

No new matter has been added to the application by the amendments herein.

B. Allowable Subject Matter; Objection to Claims 47, 50, 51 and 54

Office Action

The Office Action at page 2 states that Claims 47, 50, 51, and 54 are objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Response

Claim 31 has been amended to recite the embodiments of dependent and allowable Claims 47 and 50. Therefore, Applicants submit that Claim 31 is allowable also. Since Claims 32, 47, 50-51, and 54 are directly or indirectly dependent upon Claim 31, said claims are believed to be allowable also.

C. Rejection of Claims 31 and 48 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Office Action

The Office Action states a rejection of Claims 31 and 48 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 1,864,542 Holzapfel, or U.S. Patent No. 2,847,169 Hartman. Office Action page 2.

Response

Claim 48 has been canceled and Claim 31 has been amended to remove the embodiment of cone balls. Applicants believe this rejection is now moot and respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

D. Rejection of Claims 32 and 52 under 35 U.S.C. §103

Office Action

The Office Action states a rejection of Claim 32 and 52 as unpatentable over Tomes *et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 1,864,542 to Holzapfel, or U.S. Patent No. 2,847,169 to Hartman. Office Action pages 2-3.

The Office Action states a rejection of Claims 31 and 49 as unpatentable over Lugmair *et al.* U.S. Patent No. 6,755,364, or U.S. Patent No. 983,028 to Davidsen in view of Trumpler (U.S. 2,069,731). Office Action page 3.

The Office Action additionally states a rejection of Claims 32 and 53 as unpatentable over Tomes *et al.* U.S. 5,921,477, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,755,364 to Lugmair *et al.*, or U.S. Patent No. 983,028 to Davidsen and Trumpler (U.S. 2,069,731). Office Action pages 3-4.

Response

Claims 49 and 52-53 are canceled. Claim 31 has been amended to remove the embodiment of cone balls and pins having pointed ends. Claim 32 is dependent upon now allowable Claim 31. Since Claim 31 is deemed allowable, Claim 32 is believed to be allowable also. Applicants therefore respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn.

E. Conclusion

Applicants believe that the foregoing remarks fully respond to all outstanding matters for this application and that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Should there be any questions or comments regarding this document, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative, Gloria L. Norberg at 512-721-3654 for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: May 2, 2011